LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1938

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION

ETC., ETC.,

OF THE

PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT

BY

G. E. HARTHAN, M.B., B.C., Camb.,

Medical Officer of Health,

AND

J. W. HOLMES, M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector, Building Surveyor,
Petroleum Inspector and
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MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

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Pershore Rural District Council.

Chairman :

MAJOR W. H. TAYLOR, J.P.

Chairman of General Purposes Committee:

MAJOR W. H. TAYLOR.

Chairman of Sanitary and Housing Committee :

MAJOR W. H. TAYLOR.

Chairman of Pershore Parochial Committee :

S. G. PARKES, ESQ.

Chairman of Pershore Water Supply :

C. A. MUMFORD, ESQ.

Clerk to the Council :

F. J. NICHOLAS, Council Offices, Pershore.

Medical Officer of Health :

G. E. HARTHAN, M.B., B.C.

Highways Surveyor :

L. F. PHILLIPS.

Sanitary Inspector, Building Surveyor, Petroleum Inspector and Housing Manager :

J. W. HOLMES, M.S.I.A.

TO THE PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1938.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of your District for the year 1938.

General and Vital Statistics.

Area in Acres			57,801
Population, Registrar General's estimate mid 1938			13,140
Number of inhabited houses, end of 1938 ...			
Rateable value, 1st April, 1938			£46,663
Sum represented by a penny rate			£194
		Males	Females.	Totals.
Live Births	Legitimate ...	120	79	199
	Illegitimate ...	2	3	5
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population				15.5
		Males	Females	Total
Still Births		6	5	11
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...				51
		Males	Females	Total
Deaths		95	95	190
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population				14.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Deaths	Rates per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	1	4.6
Total	1	4.6

Death-rate of Infants under 1 year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	64
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	60
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate ,, ,,	200
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	25
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	Nil

Comparison with some of the figures for the whole country is as follows :—

	England and Wales.	District.
Birth-rate	15.1	15.5
Death-rate	11.6	14.4
Infantile Mortality rate	53	64

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following Table gives the causes of death during 1938, viz.:—

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
Measles	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Influenza	2	1	3
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	6	4	10
Other Tuberculous Diseases... ...	—	—	—
Cancer, Malignant Disease	11	14	25
Diabetes	—	2	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.... ...	7	14	21
Heart Disease	28	24	52
Aneurysm	2	—	2
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	7	9
Bronchitis	2	3	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	3	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	1	1	2
Diarrhoea, etc.	1	—	1
Appendicitis, etc.	—	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	1	1
Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ...	1	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	2	—	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	2	2	4
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	—	1	1
Congenital Debility, etc.	3	6	9
Senility	3	6	9
Suicide	3	—	3
Other Deaths from Violence... ...	4	2	6
Other Defined Diseases	8	2	10
Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	1	—	1
	95	95	190

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

These remain the same as set out in previous Reports, and I need only refer to one, the Sanatorium, Evesham. This now serves as the Joint Isolation Hospital for the three Districts—

Evesham Urban,
Evesham Rural, and
Pershore Rural.

It would be well if the contemplated extensions of this institution were carried out as soon as possible.

Within the existing accommodation it is only convenient to receive cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

Provision is required for the isolation, care and treatment of patients stricken with the less frequent diseases such as Enteric and Para-Typhoid fevers, Encephalitis, Polio-myelitis and Cerebrospinal Meningitis.

For the present, cases of these diseases can be sent, when it is necessary, to the Worcester City Fever Hospital under arrangements made between the three Authorities concerned and the Worcester Corporation.

This may not always be convenient.

At the Evesham Sanatorium there are also needed isolation cubicles wherein cases of doubtful diagnosis may be received for observation.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water Supplies.

The quality of the water in the District was much what we have come to expect.

That from Overbury and the Bredon springs was again satisfactory.

From the small sources supplying respectively Great Comberton, Little Comberton, Wyre and Bishampton the water was not good.

That at Wyre was better than in 1937. At Great and Little Comberton the bacterial count was variable—worst in

July and August when rabbits were very abundant upon the narrow collecting area. This is a region seldom visited by man; so that a high B. Coli count has not the same serious significance it would have if the risk of human pollution was less remote.

This risk, in my opinion, is greater to the supplies at Wyre and Bishampton, although the B. Coli count there to comparatively low.

In all these villages there is no other alternative supply except from a few wells, and in these the water is usually no better; surface water gets access to all alike.

Though below the approved standard of purity these waters have been used for many years without recorded or observable ill effects: but potential danger always exists. If no alternative supply can be foreseen within a reasonably short time the water from these small local village sources should be subjected to some form of filtering and purification.

For these processes small plants governed by automatic controls would need to be chosen to suit the circumstances of each supply: their cost would have to be considered and also whether sure reliance could be placed upon automatic control to give constantly even results.

It may be well to await the outcome of the Coventry Water Scheme. If, as a result of your negotiations, there seem good prospect that at an early date you may be able to obtain from this source good water at a price that would enable you to distribute it at a bearable cost, it appears to me justifiable that you should defer for the time being spending money in attempts to improve the quality of existing supplies.

Drainage and Sewerage.

In the Sanitary Inspector's Report, which is appended, will be found details in reference to house draining, none of which call for special comment.

The conversion of privy and pail closets to w.c.'s in Pershore continues steadily.

From Whittington complaints were received about pollution of a water course and lake by house drainage from part of the village. And at the new Council Honses a ditch became offensive.

The survey made with the advice of the experts consulted

shows that it will be costly and not easy to make extensions to the existing system to abate these nuisances.

This area on the fringe of your district is one that might possibly by alteration of boundaries be incorporated in the City of Worcester at some future date. The character of any additions and extension to the sewering of Whittington needs viewing in relation to this potentiality.

At Eckington the sewerage system is usatisfactory. Here a scheme with appropriate disposal works to treat the sewage is much to be desired.

Housing.

Many of the old cottages in the district are in a poor condition. Progress is being made slowly but steadily in dealing with them. Much use has been made of the Housing (Rural Workers) Act by the aid of which many have been made good habitable houses, which could not have been done by the owner without this assistance. Others have been demolished or closed —15 during 1938, and 32 further demolition orders made.

You have rightly deferred action in regard to houses now occupied by aged people (sometimes the owners) well contented with the homes in which they have been long established, and where they wish to be left to abide in peace: no public benefit would be gained and much unhappiness caused by disturbing them.

But when the old folk are gone these houses should be dealt with. In Upton Snodsbury especially there are a remarkable number of old houses thus occupied.

Overcrowding.

33 cases of overcrowding were relieved during the year, leaving 59 still to be dealt with.

Camping Sites.

There are at present no sites licensed for camping in the district. There is not a lot of camping, and no complaints were received concerning it.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The duties under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, are carried out by the Inspectors of Weights and Measures. Sanitary Inspectors can also take samples under the Acts.

All dairies and slaughterhouses are under the supervision of

your Sanitary Inspector, by whom they are visited periodically.

A whole-time Veterinary Officer for the County, appointed by the County Council, now undertakes routine quarter examination of cattle in "Grade A" herds; the tracing of tuberculous milk samples under Section 4 of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, and clinical examinations of cows in registered dairies.

The remainder of the veterinary work under the Diseases of Animals Acts, 1894-1935, and all Orders of the Ministry of Agriculture connected therewith, has been left with the Local Veterinary Inspectors who act under the direction of the Chief Constable of the County.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1938, FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PERSHORE.

on the adminstradion of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Owners prosecuted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	12		
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries	15		
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	29	8	
Total ...	56	8	Nil

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects. Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
*Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—**				
Want of cleanliness	8	8		
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors ...				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation — insufficient / unsuitable or defective / not separate for sexes	3	3		
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...				
Other offences ... ... (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
Total ...	11	11		

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.

There were no instances of this during the year.

(Signed) G. E. HARTHAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1939.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

The following table gives the number of cases notified:—

Age Groups.	Scarlet Fever.			Diphtheria.			Enteric Fever.			Puerperal Pyrexia.		
	Cases	Hospital Cases	Deaths	Cases	Hospital Cases	Deaths	Cases	Hospital Cases	Deaths	Cases	Hospital Cases	Deaths
Under 1 year												
1- 2 years	1	1										
3- 4 ,,	2	2										
5-10 ,,	4	4										
11-15 ,,	2	2		1	1							
16-20 ,,	3	2								1		
21-35 ,,	1	1					1					
36-45 ,,												
46-65 ,,				1	1							
66 and over												
Totals	13	12		2	2		1			1		

Scarlet Fever.

The following table gives particulars of the thirteen cases of this disease notified during 1938

Locality	Occurred	Hospital Cases	Total
Pinvin ...	... January (2)	2	2
Hill and Moor...	January (1) July (1)	2	2
Fladbury	... February (1)	1	1
Pershore	... March (2) September (1) December (1)	4	4
Bredon...	... March (1)		1
Kinsham	... May (1)	1	1
Wadborough	... August (1)	1	1
Grafton Flyford	December (1)	1	1
Totals	January (3), February (1), March (3) May (1), July (1), August (1), September (1), December (2)	12	13

It is to be noticed that this disease only occurred sporadically; the cases widely distributed throughout the months of the year and places in the district.

Diphtheria.

Only two cases of this disease were notified during the year, one at Elmley Castle in June, and the other at Pershore in October. Both cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Enteric Fever.

One case was notified at Abberton in October.

The patient had just returned after a long sojourn in Spain and there was no doubt that it was in that country that the infection was received.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

One case was notified during the year at Pershore; in August.

Pneumonia.

Ten cases of Pneumonia were notified during the year, and eight deaths due to this disease were registered.

Not all cases of Pneumonia are notified, only some types being notifiable.

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives particulars of the twenty new cases of tuberculosis, and of all deaths from the disease in the area during 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Nun-Pulmonary,	
	M	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...								
1— 4 years ...								
5—14 ,, ...	1							
15—24 ,, ...	3	1	1		1	2		
25—34 ,, ...	2	2			1	1		
35—44 ,, ...	2	1	1		1			
45—54 ,, ...	2		1		2			
55—64 ,, ...	1				1	1		
65 and upwards...		2				1		
Totals	11	6	3		6	5		

Number of Deaths from non-notified tuberculosis 1

Total number of tuberculosis deaths 11

Schools.

It was not necessary to close any of the Schools in the district during the year owing to illness.

I append the report of Mr. Holmes, your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, to whom I am again deeply indebted for his great help and co-operation given to me throughout the year.

Your obedient Servant,

G. E. HARTHAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sheriff's Lench,
Evesham.

PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector, for the Year, 1938.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

Housing.

During the year 26 Council houses were erected including two 4-bedroom houses for the rehousing of persons living in unfit houses. A further 21 are now in course of erection and when these are completed, the Council will have some 373 houses in the district. Approximately 22 more properties are required to be dealt with by way of Slum Clearance.

Considerable advantage was taken during the year of the Housing (Rural Workers') Act, and 31 cottages were reconstructed. It is worthy of note that since this act has been in force, over 200 cottages suitable for agricultural workers, have been reconstructed in this district.

The Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938, was considered by the Council and a circular sent to each Parish asking for their requirements. The replies received have informed us that many more houses are still required to fulfil the need of the agricultural population.

Sewerage.

No large extensions have taken place during the year and the position remains the same as in my last Report.

Eckington sewerage is causing uneasy moments, particularly the outfall.

Water Supplies.

The position is similar to that of the Report of last year. Owing to the drought water had to be conveyed from the Pershore mains to the parishes of Throckmorton, Dormston and Kington and this service was continued practically to Christmas when the village supplies began to give water again.

Milk and Dairies.

During the year the following improvements were effected at farms in the district.

Cowsheds Remodelled ...	6
New Cowsheds	Nil
Yards Improved	4
New Floors	7
New Dairies or Improvements	2

In conclusion I am greatly indebted to Dr. Harthan, the Medical Officer of Health, for his valued assistance during the year and to the members of my department.

I am,

Yours obediently,

J. W. HOLMES,

Sanitary Inspector.

PERSHORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Staff:

Medical Officer of Health, Dr. G. E Harthan. M.B., B.C.

Sanitary Inspector, J. W. Holmes. M.S.I.A.

C. H. Prosser, *Chief Assistant.*

E. T. Milward, *2nd Assistant.*

Inspector's Report of the Sanitary Work completed in the Year ended the 31st December, 1938.

Infectious Diseases, etc.	Visits to houses on account of notifiable disease... ...	16
	Houses disinfected after notifiable disease	16
	Other houses disinfected	—
Housing	Houses erected: (*a*) By Local Authority	26
	(*b*) By private enterprise or subsidy ...	37
	1. (*a*) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects	438
	(*b*) Number (included above) inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925	354
	(*c*) Number of houses found unfit for habitation ...	30
	(*d*) Number of houses (excluding c.) not in all respects fit for habitation	176
	2. Number of defective houses rendered fit by informal action	75
	3. Housing Act, 1936, Sections 9, 10 and 16	
	(*a*) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs or defects remedied	4
	(*b*) Number of dwellings subsequently rendered fit after notice by	
	(*a*) The Owner	4
	(*b*) Local Authority in default of Owner ...	Nil
	4. Public Health Acts	
	(*a*) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs or defects remedied	Nil
	(*b*) Number of dwellings subsequently rendered fit after notice by	
	(*a*) The Owner	Nil
	(*b*) Local Authority in default of owner ...	Nil
	5. Housing Act, 1936, Sections 11 and 13	
	(*a*) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	32
	(*b*) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	15
	6. Housing Act, 1936, Section 12	
	(*a*) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
	(*b*) Number of Closing Orders determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
	7. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding	
	(*a*) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	59
	Number of families dwelling therein	59
	Number of persons dwelling therein	395
	(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
	(*c*) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	33
	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	209
	(*d*) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
	(*e*) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil
	Dirty Houses dealt with	4
	Yards paved or repaved	54

Moveable Dwellings, Caravans, etc.	No. observed	16
	No. dealt with, as insanitary	3
House Drainage, etc.	No. laid or relaid	106
	No. trapped, ventilated and repaired	14
	No. of obstructed drains dealt with	52
	No. of house drains tested	106
	No. of insanitary lavatories, sinks and urinals rectified ...	10
	In what parishes, if any, is there need for a sewerage scheme, or improvements in sewage disposal	See prev. report
Water Closets	No. of privy or pail conversions including additional W.C's.	54
	No. of defective W.C's. remedied	16
	No. of Slop Closets, converted to W.C's. with fresh water flush	Nil
	No. of additional W.C's put in	13
Scavenging	No. of houses from which refuse was removed	Pershore, Bredon, Fladbury, Pinvin, Wyre, Cropthorne, Charlton
	No. of privies cleansed	24
	No. of ashpits cleansed	17
	No. of portable receptacles cleansed	appro. 200 w'kly
	No. of ashpits removed and ashbins provided	4
	How often is house refuse removed	Pershore w'kly Elsewhere m'ly
Smoke Nuisances	No. under observation	
	No. abated	Nil
Offensive Trades (Sec. 112 P.H.A. 1875 Sec. 51 P.H.A.A.A. 1907)	No. under observation	
	No. improperly conducted	Nil
	No. newly established, with consent of Council	
Water Supply	No. of wells sunk...	18
	No. of wells cleansed and repaired	6
	No. of wells closed as polluted	Nil
	No, of houses supplied from waterworks during year ...	94
	No. of samples of water sent for analysis	90
	No. of houses with contaminated or deficient water-supplies dealt with	25
	Is there a deficiency in any parish or part of the district? If so, please give name of parish or part?	see 1936 report
Slaughter Houses	Public Slaughter houses	Nil
	No. registered (private)	8
	No. licensed (private)	6
	No. of contraventions of bye-laws or defects found ...	8
	Cases of slaughtering on unlicensed premises reported ...	16
	No. of inspections	286
Milk	No. of registered dairy farms in the area	158
	Total No. of Retailers in the district	88
	No. of Licences under Milk (Special Designations) Order:—	

	Pastuerised	Accredited	Tuberculin Tested
Bottlers	—	2	—
Retailers	1	—	—
Producers	—	19	—

Approximate No. of milking cows in the district	1600
Canal Boats	No. of boats on register ... ...
	No. of boats registered during year ... ...
	No. of certificates renewed ... ... Nil
	No. of boats inspected (for registration or otherwise) ...
	No. of contraventions of Acts and Regulations dealt with ...
Lodging Houses	No. on Register ... ...
	No. of inspections ... ... Nil
	No. of contraventions of bye-laws or defects found ...
Houses Let in Lodgings	No. on register ... ...
	No. of inspections ... ... Nil
	No. of contraventions of bye-laws or defects found ...
Food	No. of seizures as unfit for consumption ... ... Nil
	Amount voluntarily surrendered as unfit for consumption ... 1 hindquarter of Beef. 1 Pig, several Livers
	Amount destroyed as unfit for consumption: Meat .. Nil
	Other Foodstuffs
	Cases of animals affected with Tuberculosis: Oxen ... 3
	Pigs ... 4

Food and Drugs Act	Samples taken for analysis ... ... No. of samples certified genuine ... ... No. of samples certified adulterated	Nil
Other Matters	Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, Cases dealt with ... Verminous Persons Cases dealt with ... ... Verminous Houses do. ... ... Stagnant Water do. ... ... Nuisances arising from domestic animals	Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil
Legal Proceedings	Convictions obtained with regard to insanitary conditions ... Convictions obtained with regard to unsound food ...	Nil
Outbreaks of Infectious Disease or other abnormal illness during the year	Nothing abnormal occurred during the year	
Have any large sanitary improvements taken place during the year? If so, please give particulars	None	
What are the chief sanitary requirements of the district?	See previous reports	
No. of cases of Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fever during the year with any notes as to possible origin	1 case of Enteric. Patient had just returned from Spain where she had been nursing	

W. Fearnside,
Avon Printing Works,
Pershore.